

hearings or briefings covering Greece, Russia, Serbia, Kosovo, and Romania, as well as the OSCE process.

Members of the Commission have also sent several letters to Greek leaders in recent years addressing longstanding human rights concerns in the Hellenic Republic, including those affecting the Romani community. These expressions of concern have specifically addressed forced evacuations of Roma from numerous villages, the abusive application of the use of national identity cards issued to Roma, the inability of Roma children to have access to schools on a nondiscriminatory basis and other matters of blatant racial discrimination.

This newly released report on Roma clearly indicates that the Greek Government has failed to properly address many of these ongoing concerns. At a June 2002 Commission hearing on Greece, in fact, I raised the specter of an intensified campaign targeting Roma to obtain land for use as venues for the 2004 Olympics. This campaign is well documented in this report.

Notwithstanding the assertions of Greek officials at the Commission hearing that "everything is done (concerning the relocation) in consultation with, and with the consent of, the Roma involved," numerous non-governmental organizations have raised such issues with Athens. Greek human rights activists have stepped forward.

As an original signatory to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, Greece has accepted numerous commitments pertaining to the treatment of Roma and joined in condemning discrimination against Roma, a provision found in the 1999 Istanbul OSCE Summit Document. Regrettably, the Greek Government has failed to fulfill these commitments, as documented in the new ERRC/GHM report on Roma in Greece.

The ERRC and GHM conducted intensive field missions that revealed several patterns of human rights abuse against Roma in Greece: cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment of Roma in housing; police violence against Roma; exclusion of Roma from the educational system; and, barriers to access to health care and other social support services for Roma.

Based on the facts in this report and the discussions I have had over the years in my leadership capacity with the Helsinki Commission, I urge the Government of Greece to take corrective measures, without delay, along the lines recommended by the ERRC and the GHM:

1. Facilitate access to Greek citizenship for those Roma residing in Greece who are stateless and provide the necessary legal documents, such as identity cards, to all Roma.
2. Use all appropriate means to guarantee protection against forced evictions outside the rule of law and without due process.
3. Bring to justice public officials and private individuals responsible for forced evictions of Roma in breach of Greek law.
4. Carry out thorough and timely investigations into all alleged instances of police abuse.
5. Undertake effective measures to ensure that local authorities register all persons factually residing in a given municipality, without regard to ethnicity.
6. Ensure that Romani schoolchildren have equal access to education in a desegregated school environment.
7. Without delay, adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, as called for in the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit Document.

8. Conduct public information campaigns on human rights and remedies available to victims of human rights abuse, and distribute in both the Greek and Romani languages.

9. Conduct comprehensive human rights and anti-racism training for national and local administrators, members of the police force, and the judiciary.

10. At the highest levels, speak out against racial discrimination against Roma and others, and make clear that racism will not be tolerated.

The Helsinki Commission will continue to monitor the situation of Roma in the Hellenic Republic with the aim of encouraging the Government of Greece to implement commitments it has agreed to within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Commission will also work to ensure that the plight of Roma in Greece is raised at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting to be held this Fall in Warsaw.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHAD MOORING AND DOUG JONES

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to honor Doug Jones and Chad Mooring, two brave paramedics from Pueblo, Colorado. Their lives and service are supreme examples of dedication to, and self-sacrifice for, their fellow citizens. It gives me great pleasure to recognize them before this Congress and this nation.

Chad has served the people of Pueblo as a firefighter and paramedic for many years. His life of service is all the more remarkable because he suffers from kidney failure and must undergo frequent dialysis. Were it not for the compassion and bravery of his friend Doug, who plans to donate one of his kidneys to Chad, Colorado might very well lose a firefighter and friend. Instead, seeing his friend in need, Doug offered to undergo surgery in order to help a fellow hero. Men like Chad and Doug inspire us all to face hardship with dignity and strength.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize the uncommon heroism and sacrifice of these two men. They exemplify friendship, commitment and selflessness. They have shown steadfast loyalty and dedication to each other and to their community. Undoubtedly, the many people who have benefited from their public service realized this fact long ago. This nation is a better place because of men like Doug Jones and Chad Mooring, and I am proud they are Coloradans and proud to represent them in this Congress.

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY COMBEST

##### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I join with my House colleagues of the past and present and especially those with whom I have served on the House Agriculture Committee, to extend

my best wishes to LARRY COMBEST as he embarks on a new direction in life after serving the people of Texas' 19th District with distinction and honor for 18 years.

Over the course of our 12½ years together on the House Agriculture Committee, I enjoyed the relationship we were able to build and the spirit with which we pursued the best policy for rural America and for America's farmers and ranchers.

There can be no doubt that LARRY has been a strong voice in Congress and a consistent advocate for our nation's agriculture community. I congratulate my friend LARRY on all of his accomplishments here in Congress and I know that all his friends and House colleagues will sorely miss him.

#### TRIBUTE TO NANCY LUKENBILL

##### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service and personal commitment of Nancy Lukenbill to the Monterey County government of the State of California. She joined the Monterey County workforce on October 6, 1969 as staff clerk in the Office of the Monterey County Clerk where she began a career of service that lasted 34 years. She has provided the County with dedicated and reliable work, characteristics in line with the quality of her person. Her poise and helpfulness moved her quickly up the ranks and she became the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County in January of 1976, a position she has held until her recent retirement.

Nancy's attention to detail and extraordinary intelligence make her a treasure trove of Monterey County stories over the last 34 years. She starred in my County Supervisor TV commercial, displaying her on-camera hair-dos that attest to her stylish and tremendous personality. Her office was a place of comfort for Supervisors and county employees, and never letting her personal politics intrude, Nancy's discretion around politicians made her stand out as the resource for impartial information. She was the pulse, the heartbeat of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors because supervisors would come and go, including yours truly, but for 27 years, Nancy was the rock. She was the go-to person if you needed something done. Everybody knows she makes the County function, and the County has been fortunate to have her for so long.

Instrumental in bringing the 21st Century and the Internet to the Board's office, Nancy constantly appealed to her wholehearted conviction that local citizens have the untouchable right to access the business of their County electeds. However, with all of the technological advancement, she never lost touch with the County scribe's necessary skills from when she first signed up for the job. She always took shorthand notes of County meetings despite the presence of videotapes and tape-recorders. This makes her one for the ages.

The County has enjoyed her loyalty and her impeccable work for almost 34 years, and she will be sorely missed. On behalf of this House, I want to commend Nancy Lukenbill on her commitment to the people of Monterey County